

## CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical compound comprising:
  - a therapeutically effective amount of bee venom; and
  - at least one anesthetic provided in an amount which is sufficient to reduce the irritation associated with the injection of said bee venom .
2. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 1 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 20:1–1:10 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.
3. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 2 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 10:1–1:5 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.
4. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 3 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 3:1–1:1 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.
5. The pharmaceutical compound of claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 further comprising at least one excipient or liquid carrier.
6. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 5 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide between about 0.1mg and about 10mg of bee venom per mL.
7. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 6 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide between about 0.5mg and about 5.0mg of bee venom per mL.
8. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 7 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide about 1mg of bee venom per mL.

9. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 8 wherein said at least one anesthetic is a local anesthetic.

10. The pharmaceutical compound of claim 9 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine.

5 ~~Sub A1~~ A method of administering bee venom to a patient in need of such treatment comprising the steps of:

10 administering to a patient, simultaneously or consecutively, both (1) a therapeutically effective amount of bee venom intradermally, subcutaneously or intramuscularly and (2) at least one anesthetic intradermally, subcutaneously or intramuscularly, said anesthetic being provided in an amount which is sufficient to reduce the irritation associated with the injection of said therapeutically effective amount of said bee venom.

12. ~~Sub A2~~ The method of claim 11 wherein said anesthetic is administered in a ratio of between about 20:1-1:10 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.

15 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 10:1-1:5 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of about 3:1-1:1 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.

20 ~~Sub A3~~ 15. The method of claims 11, 12, 13 or 14 further comprising at least one excipient or liquid carrier in which at least one of said bee venom and said anesthetic are mixed, dissolved or suspended.

~~Sub A3~~ 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide between about 0.1mg and about 10.0mg of bee venom per mL.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide about 0.5 mg and about 5.0mg of bee venom per mL.

5 18. The method of claim 17 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide about 1.0mg of bee venom per mL

19. The method of claim 15 wherein said be venom is administered in an amount of between about 0.01mg and about 1.0mg per injection.

10 20. *Sub C3* The method of claim 19 wherein said be venom is administered in an amount of between about 0.05mg and about 0.5mg per injection.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said be venom is administered in an amount of about 0.1mg per injection.

15 22. The method of claim 11 wherein said patient is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Osteoarthritis, Gouty Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Fibromyalgia, Fibromyositis, Myofascial Dysfunction Pain Syndrome, Tennis Elbow and Golfers Elbow, Frozen Shoulder, Bursitis, Tendonitis, Chronic Surgical Inflammation of Soft and Bony Tissue, Peripheral Neuritis, Neuralgia, Migraine, Eczema, Psoriasis, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus.

20 *Sub A4* 23. The method of claim 15 wherein said anesthetic is administered in an amount of between about 0.01mg and about 2mg per injection.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said anesthetic is administered in an amount of between about 0.05mg and about 1.0mg per injection.

25 *Sub C4* 25. The method of claim 24 wherein said anesthetic is administered in an amount of about 0.1mg to about 0.3mg per injection.

26. The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one anesthetic is a local anesthetic.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine.

Sub 5 A5 28. The method of claim 11 wherein said bee venom has the purity equivalent to that resulting from filtering through a 25mcm filter.

29. A standardized bee venom preparation suitable for administration by injection comprising: a liquid carrier and admixed therein between about 0.1mg to about 10.0mg by weight of bee venom per mL of said liquid carrier, said preparation being filtered though a 25mcm filter.

10 30. The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 29 further comprising at least one anesthetic provided in an amount which is sufficient to reduce the irritation associated with the injection of said bee venom.